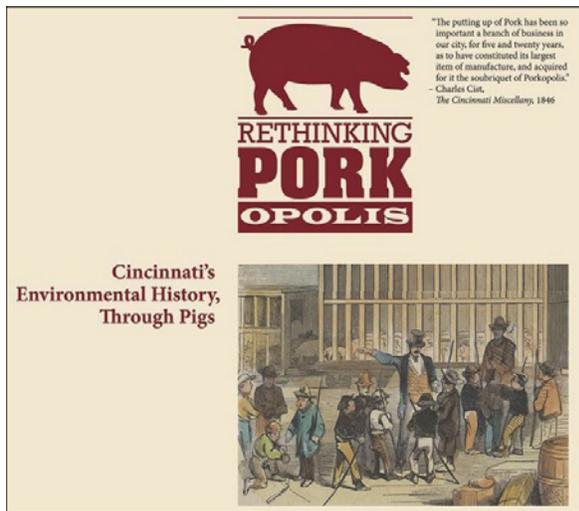


Rethinking Porkopolis at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House

September 9 — December 11, 2016



Today, Cincinnati is known as "The Queen City," but in the 1800s, Cincinnati was *Porkopolis* — the largest pork-producing city in the world.

After the Revolutionary War, many Americans headed West with their cattle and hogs, across the Appalachian Mountains and along the Ohio River. Beef and pork were shipped down the Mississippi River from Cincinnati to New Orleans as early as 1803, the meat packed on flat boats in the river.

Readily available salt, a large immigrant workforce and the system of canals down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers helped the city cement its place in hog-producing heaven. In 1833, more than 85,000

pigs were processed in Cincinnati, and by 1844, 26 different meat-processing plants were located here. Cincinnati was the biggest city in the West by 1850 and quickly earned the nickname *Porkopolis*.

Cincinnati remained high on the hog until 1862, when Chicago took the lead in pork production. With the Civil War under way, Cincinnati could no longer use the Mississippi River and its canals as a delivery route. Chicago, with its superior rail system, could deliver huge quantities of "the other white meat" to Union troops more quickly.

Robert Gioielli, the University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash College serves as the exhibit's curator.

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